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Peter McWilliams  
c/o Prelude Press  
Box 6969B  
Los Angeles, CA 90069

Mr. McWilliams:

The "Doctor Spock of Personal Computer"---I doubt that the good doctor is nearly as entertaining while dispensing his important information. The inclusion of your book Word Processing on the KayPro was a stroke of genius on the part of the KayPro folks when I bought my first computer.

Given your particular insight on the place of PC's in our society (sounds pretty grandiose . . . ) I have a request to make. I'm working on a "news feature" article for a feature writing course at Cal State Fullerton, and would be very interested in any insights, anecdotes, tangents that you might have on the supposed "future demise of MSDOS" ("with special reference to lessons learned from the passing of it's predecessor, CP/M").

With XT "name brand" clones hovering around \$800 ("complete with 20MB hard disk, monitor, and one free Taiwanese lesson") those that haven't yet bought into the yuppie PC consciousness would be hard pressed to use money as an excuse. But I'm wondering if today's computer consumer in this position is making the mistake of buy technology that has already been given a death sentence (like buy a super-Beta VCR). I bought my first Kaypro in '84, just before CP/M made its full retreat into the land of mail-order catalogues where stubborn hackers-monks can be heard muttering, "ZCPR1, ZCPR2, ZCPR3! ZCPR1 . . ." I guess I'm just a little sensitive about the public buying into obsolescence.

I have interviewed Derek McKay from Plu\*Perfect Systems and Greg Fisher from Advent Products. I hope to contact David Gerrold (one time columnist of Profiles and of When Harlie Was One fame) and David Thompson (from Micro Cornucopia). It just wouldn't be the same without you.

Now the bad news: because this article is tied to class work I have a ridiculous deadline (are you ready for this?) April 4 (might as well be April 1). After asking Directory Assistance for Prelude Press in Los Angeles and getting the number to Prelude Hairstyles (probably in Inglewood) I figured I'd take my

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chances with the postal service. I can only hope that Prelude Press is good about getting your mail to you (should I hold my breath?) But, even if this doesn't reach you until July of '88, I'd be honored to hear from you.

Thank you for your time and good humor.

Sincerely,

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P.S., I work for Pacific Bell and each time I see the woodcut at the end of your book, "The author extols the virtues of word processing to an attentive AT&T board meeting" I die laughing. Thanks.